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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **ARMED ROBBERS** **FOUND GUILTY BY JURY**

SACRAMENTO - United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today the convictions of JOHN THAT LUONG, 36, MINH HUYNH, 35, KEVIN LATTANAPHOM, 30, AND HOANG AI LE, 36, following a jury trial which concluded on December 14, 2007. The jury returned guilty verdicts on all nine counts against JOHN THAT LUONG for his part as the organizer of four violent, armed robberies, one of which, in January 1996, included the murder of Vuth Hong. The jury also returned nine guilty verdicts against robbery crew chief MINH HUYNH, seven guilty verdicts against crew member and gunman KEVIN LATTANAPHOM, and two guilty verdicts against defendant HOANG AI LE.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Stockton Police Department.

During the two-month trial, the evidence showed that over the course of three months, between December 1995 and January 1996, LUONG's criminal organization planned and executed four armed robberies, and attempted a fifth, of computer chip companies and a Stockton jewelry store. The modus operandi for two of the charged robberies included an "action" team that conducted brutal home invasions of owners from targeted businesses in order to extract alarm codes, security information, and keys to access the business. Once the information and keys were extracted, a second "transport" team would drive to the business and steal all of the business's property. Tragically, the home invasion of Stockton jewelry store owner Vuth Hong included approximately four hours of torture for the victim and his family, during which the robbers used a blowtorch, a hot iron, firearms, and other implements to attempt to extract information. Eventually defendant KEVIN LATTANAPHOM shot and killed Vuth Hong with a single bullet to the victim's chest. Vuth's brother was shot four times by another crew member but survived.

Each defendant convicted of the Stockton murder is facing life in prison with a mandatory consecutive prison term of five years to life for using a firearm. For each computer chip company attempted robbery conviction, each defendant could receive up to 20 years, plus a mandatory consecutive sentence of 20 years to life for using a firearm.

Sentencing before United States District Judge William B. Shubb is pending.

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